



Last month we had the AGM where Brian stepped down as chairman and Paul Whitcombe was elected into the chair. In this issue of WHAM NEWS you will find a 'rogues gallery' to pinch a term used by Brian where you'll be able to put a face to the names. As is becoming a bit of a tradition the outgoing Chairman was presented with a caricature of himself, here Tony does the deed with Brian.



The Natter night this month is a Q&A session with WHAMs training team, this where any of your motorcycling related questions will be answered.

Tony, our webmaster has set up a 'submit your question' page on WHAMs website, using the link below will take you to the page where your questions can be entered, questions can also be asked on the night.

<http://www.wham-motorcycling.org/submit-your-question/>

## The Chairman's Notes by Paul

I shake hands with Brian and take the seat as new Chairman. Looking at the fantastic turnout at the AGM from the chair, between Eric and Alex, I realise the number of members who had turned out, despite the weather. Thank you to all those who were so encouraging at the AGM, and voted me in, and thanks to those who were so supportive prior to the event.

Cheers folks – I'll endeavour to move the club forward, safe in the knowledge that I have an experienced team willing me on. WHAM is a real team effort and I take my hat off to Brian and those who have been on the Committee to date.



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THE IAM OR THE WORCESTER AND HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS



## The Chairman's Notes continued

I would like to start with some encouraging news. Lynton Jeynes has recently been moved to Worcester Hospital. His family have asked that we do not visit at this time. They have really appreciated the reactions from WHAM members, offering help and support.

However I will keep you posted as I receive information from Brian, Ian Barnard or the family. His family

I am looking forward to the possibility of participating in a Speedway or Trials experience later in the year; meeting WHAM members on Sunday or Day rides; participating in First Aid training; joining you at the Summer BBQ we are planning and at the Christmas Dinner. Such events do not happen without a team of willing helpers. Watch the website for more details.

As an organisation committed to training and advanced riding I am looking forward to working with the Chief Observer Del Britton, and the members of the training team. They are experienced riders and are happy to pass on their skills and knowledge. Make the most of them and the observers who you will have the pleasure of meeting on Sunday rides.

Roger Brooks continues as Vice Chair and Newsletter Editor. Oh, and owner of the shortest tank range in WHAM. Please pass on stories, photos and interesting articles that can be used. Alternatively, catch him when he runs out of petrol on a Sunday ride. (*Thanks, I think! Rog*)

The Rider Skills Day takes place this year on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April at Queen Elizabeth Humanities College in Bromyard. We will be calling for helpers and cakes in the near future. We currently have over 20 Associates with Observers who are looking forward to better weather and completing their Skills for Life.

I would like to welcome Ali Lewis to the Committee. Having witnessed her enthusiasm for motorcycling I am looking forward to her welcoming more female riders to the group. Ali is keen to organise a summer BBQ and hopes you will attend. Details to follow.

The website will have regular updates on what we're up to and you'll see that our next natter night is a question and answer session with the Training Team, on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Please send your questions to Del Britton at [vkr1200rt@gmail.com](mailto:vkr1200rt@gmail.com) or me at [wham.worcester@gmail.com](mailto:wham.worcester@gmail.com). By contrast web guru Tony has organised a quiz for March natter night. Get your thinking caps on and bring a sense of humour and open mind.

If you have any questions, suggestions, concerns or comments regarding WHAM then please don't hesitate to contact me at the above address. WHAM is a fantastic club to be part of and I look forward to riding with you throughout 2014.



join!). And if your not on Facebook, this is a good reason to join.

To join just login to your Facebook account and type 'Worcester and Hereford Advanced Motorcyclists' in the search box at the top of the page, then click on the 'Join Group' button at the top right of the screen - one of our Admins will then approve your membership (we don't just let anyone in, only WHAM Members can



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## WHAM! Regalia

Have you bought your WHAM! clothing yet? We've got polo shirts and T-shirts in stock - for £12 and £10 respectively. You can also buy fleeces and other wham regalia - just let us know what you want. To purchase wham! polo or T-shirts Please contact: Alex Hoyle.  
[whamsecretary@trackdown.co.uk](mailto:whamsecretary@trackdown.co.uk)



# IAM Test Passes

Congratulations to the following member on completing their SKILLS for LIFE package!!!

Observers, please send a photo of your associate to the newsletter soon as possible after they have passed their test. [whamnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:whamnewsletter@gmail.com)



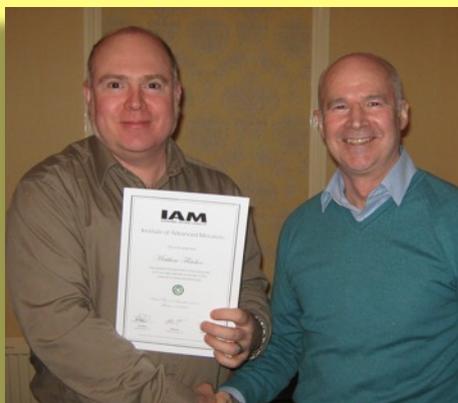
**Lynne Sherwood**

Observer, Rog Brooks



**Colin Smith**

Observer, Tim Wynne



**Matthew Fletcher**

Observer Del Britton



**Paul Gill**

Observer, Richard Hewitt



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# Summer Tours

## Summer Tour: Hotel Grandru, Chaumont, Belgium

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014 – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June

As many of you will know having visited the region the Ardennes covers the South Eastern corner of Belgium, the West of Luxembourg and a bit of North East France. Germany and the North end of the Eifel are just 40 miles away - but it is the beautiful Luxembourg part of the Ardennes which we are going to explore!

The hotel is in the Belgian Ardennes and only 4 miles from the Luxembourg border; it is small having only 9 en-suite rooms but has all the facilities we will need: rooms, a bar, our meals and even includes garaging for the bikes. Previous visitors will know that our host Jacinto has a GS - with snow-chains – having met him we know he is slightly deranged, but in the best possible way! He is also an excellent chef, though as Tony shows the healthy aspects of the menu don't agree with everyone!



See more about the hotel here: <http://www.grandru.be/en/index.asp> If you think it looks like a barn - it was built that way but is a “new build” hotel and very well equipped! Room rates are €330 per person for the seven nights. These rates are half-board (Bed, Breakfast and an evening meal). The Ardennes is closer than some trips we have made so it is possible to do the transfer in a day. No route timings or Chunnel departure at present - lets get a feel of who is interested and how they want to attack it.



As always feel free to adjust or extend your personal itinerary to take in other visits.

### Costs

#### Hotel – half-board rate

€320 per person (for 7 nights).

**Chunnel/Ferry** - Return fare for bike/rider(s) from £70  
**Food, Petrol, Beer money etc.** – As usual, down to you!



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# Summer Tour

## Booking and availability

Anyone interested in the tour please let me know. Limited space, so first come, first served!

Note that this is a motorcycle tour and there will be rides every day. As we stay in one place individuals do have the freedom to opt out to pursue other interests or to take rest/recuperation time. Riding each day for a week is intense – it requires a very good standard of riding and a clear appreciation of the rider's own limits.

The whole of the hotel is provisionally booked until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014 by which time I will need deposits if you would like to come.

Derek McMullan

Mobile: 077 91 10 22 18  
d.934@btinternet.com

## WHAM Committee 2014



**Paul Whitcombe**, Paul was elected as Chairman and Group Officer and is responsible for overall leadership and development of the Group.



**Rog Brooks**. Re-elected Vice Chairman and Newsletter Editor. So if you have any comments on the newsletter or articles you'd like to have included, send them in to [whamnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:whamnewsletter@gmail.com)



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# WHAM Committee 2014



**Alex Hoyle** has been re-elected into the role of Secretary and Group Officer. Alex is responsible for the Group's admin, liaison between the group and IAM HO and supporting the rest of the committee.



**Eric Reynolds** has been re-elected as Treasurer and Group Officer. Eric looks after our money. He is always pleased to talk to any wealthy philanthropists seeking to support a deserving bike group



**Ant Clerici** has been elected Region 3 Representative. Ant will attend the Region 3 meetings on behalf of WHAM! and keep the committee informed of Region 3



**Tony Davis** was re-elected into the positions of Webmaster and our Routemaster. Tony authors and maintains the website and as Routemaster is always pleased to hear of those excellent roads and good cafes you may find.



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# WHAM Committee 2014



**John Hodges** was re-elected as Membership Secretary. So any membership related queries contact John.



**Del Britton**, The CO is appointed by and is responsible to WHAM's Committee; The overall duties will be: to manage all training programmes and skills development packages for associates, members and observers seeking to develop their riding skills. The CO will oversee initial and on-going Observer training to maintain WHAM's high standard and chair WHAM's Training Group forum.



**Ali Lewis**, Committee Member. Any WHAM full member can be nominated for the position of committee "Member". This position is designed to give all full members the opportunity to serve on the committee and to ascertain if they wish to be further involved.



**Derek McMullan**, Derek is invited by the Committee as a non-voting Advisor in view of his broader interests in Motorcycling and Road Safety generally..



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# Members' Articles

In this article Sharon Palmer tells us about her Valleys trip, the timing of this story is brilliant as with summer fast approaching (fingers crossed) we will all be enjoying more adventures around the United Kingdom.

With the sun shining and the birds singing my day started early at 5:45am (not intentional but the birds didn't know how early it was). I now had extra time to get all my pre ride rituals out of the way. I had arranged for my long time riding companions Denise & Ken Anderson to meet me at my house for 7:30 bearing in mind they don't always arrive early, except the day I am still eating my breakfast.

So off we went on time and made good progress to the meeting point. We arrived at McDonalds to an empty car park had we got the wrong day or the wrong McDonalds we thought? No we were just early. Fellow members soon started arriving.

After a brief from Steve Edwards the ride organiser informing us that if we had a Garmin we need to be aware about them having minds of their own and that they would possibly not take us on the right route (nothing new there). With that in mind I teamed up with my best mate Denise, we decided to ride with Del and Ali but we couldn't find them once we were ready, so this nice quiet man said we could ride with him.

Great I thought Ian Barnard we'll never keep his pace, so off we went Ian, Denise, Me with Mark and Linda bringing up the rear. Much to my surprise Ian kept a very nice pace and we enjoyed a nice smooth ride to our first stop in Merthyr Tydfil stopping on the way to enjoy the beautiful view and to take a couple of photos.



Once at Asda we took advantage of the cheapest fuel price we'd seen in some time. A quick visit to the supermarket for a drink and to use their facilities and we were ready to carry on. Ian exited the supermarket with a bar of chocolate for his breakfast and a newspaper, perhaps the ride was too slow for him and he would read the paper whilst riding his bike. We regrouped and took to the road once more. The Brynffynon Hotel was our next port of call stopping here for lunch and a rest, or should I say a stress. Have you seen the car park? A sloping gravel surface not great for motorcyclists especially me as I hate gravel, I proceeded as far as I dare then stopped and shouted for my bike monitor Ken to park my bike for me.

We headed into the restaurant for lunch Chicken Liver Pate for me (nice). Good quick service ensured our departure wouldn't be too long, but what about this horrible car park, where was Ken? Gone! I called on my deputy bike monitor Ian to get me and Denise to safety and soon we were carrying on our journey, Ian now knows what a real bike feels like.

More nice twisty roads followed but it wasn't long before we happened upon a few cyclists. Plenty to think about here uphill narrow roads, sheep, hairpin bends, cars, spectators, you name it. Using all my skills and concentration we made it to our next stop at the Ice Cream van along with the cyclists. A brief stop here for an ice cream or two. A quick change to the route was decided upon at this point as we didn't think it was a good idea to try and ride with all these hazards around so off to the Honey Café it was. So it was back down the hill to face the cyclists again. For mile after mile these cyclists just seemed to keep coming you have to admire them but I prefer my 2 wheels to have an engine.

With a few more in our group we made our way to Bronllys, another good steady ride and we arrived about 3:30pm. Afternoon tea and a chat then it was time to bid farewell to everybody and head for home. Ken lead and Denise and I duly followed only another 1 ½ hours or so to go and we'll be home. Another good run from Bronllys to

Kidderminster making it home for about 5:30pm. With my backside now numb and my body tired I jumped straight in to shower as I feared that if I sat down for a bit first I might not be able to get back up. By 6:00pm I was in my Jim Jams ready for a nice relaxing evening.



It was a great day the weather couldn't have been better so a big thank you to our Chairman Brian Morgan for arranging this. A big thank you to Tony Davis for sorting out a better route for us Garmin users and a very big thank you to Steve Edwards for arranging the whole day I thoroughly enjoyed myself. Great roads, great weather and as always great company.

# Group Notice

## Club Notice Board

### Up coming EVENTS

- <http://www.ridethecounty.org.uk/>
- Remember to check the 'Programme' section of the WHAM website for the SUNDAY ride out routes.

<http://www.wham-motorcycling.org/programme/>

This months youtube video

[KTM 1290 SuperDuke](#)

[BMW motorcycle recall](#)

## For Sale

**iPad mini** 32gb wi-fi in black with case.

Cost £379 last April in mint original boxed condition with lead & charger  
£190

**Sony STR-DN1030 Audio Visual Receiver** just 1 year old in excellent condition  
150w Amp into 7.2 or 5.2 and stereo in 2nd zone. 5 HDMI in & 1 HDMI ARC out  
AM/FM radio complete with all original accessories  
£150

Both items available due to upgrading.

**Ian Barnard** 01905 724827 07843807014

## The Chief Observers page

### Observation links

Observations links are clues to physical features and the likely behaviour of other road users. Aim to build up your own stock of observation links, which will help you to anticipate road and traffic conditions as you scan the environment:

Observation links:



When you see a cluster of lamp posts in the distance, look out for a probable roundabout ahead.

When you see a single lamp post on its own, look out for the exit point of a junction.

When you see no gap in a bank of trees ahead, look out for the road to curve to the left or right.

When you observe people standing up on a bus to the front of you, consider it will stop shortly at a bus stop.



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# The Chief Observers page

Some more observations links:

When you see ...	Look out for ...
A railway line beside road.	Road will invariably go over or under it, often with sharp turns.
A row of parked vehicles.	Doors opening, vehicles moving off. Pedestrians stepping out from behind vehicles. Small children hidden from view
A bus at a stop.	Pedestrians crossing the road to and from the bus. Bus moving off, possibly at an angle.
Cyclist.	Inexperienced cyclist doing something erratic. Cyclist looking over shoulder with the intention of turning right. Strong winds causing a wobble. Young cyclist doing something dangerous. On coming vehicles moving around a oncoming cyclist.
A gap in the traffic.	Cars emerging between queuing vehicles.
Recently laid road surface.	Loose chippings causing loss of traction.
Tractors working in nearby fields.	Mud on the road especially in and around rural villages and by gaps in hedgerows where tractors having be turning on to the road.

## Local road Knowledge

Increasing your local road knowledge of the roads can help your riding, but never take familiar roads for granted. Loss of attention is a major cause of collisions – don't let your attention wander on roads you know well.

2 out of 3 crashes happen on roads that drivers are familiar with.

Town riding puts heavy demands on your observation, reactions and riding skills, and you need to be alert at all times. At complicated junctions where it is important to get into the correct lane, local knowledge is useful. But even when you know the layout of main road junctions, one-way streets, roundabouts and other local features, always plan on the basis of what you can see – not what usually happens. See the attached video of such an example and look at what you may have done or reacted to:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=2rGPTESxkYc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=2rGPTESxkYc)

## Diary dates:

- a. Observer training ride out (route to be confirmed) Sat 8<sup>th</sup> March 14.
- b. Observer training ride out (route to be confirmed) Sat 15<sup>th</sup> March 14.
- c. Observer training day Sat 29<sup>th</sup> March 14.



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Del

# Members' Articles

## If it's been too long.....?

Sometimes we don't get to ride our motor bikes as frequently as we wish.

Things get in the way

Things that are sometimes outside our control

Work, Xmas shopping, holidays, DIY, family reunions, frost, snow, floods, you've mothballed the bike and even though it's a fabulous winters day you can't be bothered to get it out of hibernation, alcohol levels following the New Year celebrations, ice, sorting out the garden, salted roads, it's dark, there are floods at the end of the road, I missed my alarm.....it's too cold

Lately the weather has been wet, very wet; and the floods have made travel difficult let alone on two wheels, and then we've had a succession of frosty mornings, so even the keenest riders have sensibly left their bike in the garage or under the covers.

Although I ride around 12k miles a year I've noticed that even after a short "lay off" my biking is a little rusty. So what's it like if you've not ridden for a couple of months?

And what about the increased risk if you are a little rusty?

### *FACT*

*Motorcyclist casualties are highly seasonal - fatalities and overall casualties peak during the Spring and Summer months, reflecting increased riding during this period and riders returning to their bikes after a winter lay-off.*

### **WHAM now offers a "return to riding" scheme.**

This is for anyone who hasn't ridden for a while – our guidelines are:

- Not ridden for over 6 weeks?
- Not ridden much lately? Which we mean less than 100 miles a month
- Been off the bike due to illness or an accident
- You simply want a refresher because you feel you want one

We'll pair you with an Observer who will ride with you on your first outing. This can be on a Sunday ride or at another time.

**If you are interested in booking a ride call/email Del Britton ([vkr1200rt@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vkr1200rt@hotmail.co.uk)) or any of WHAM's observers**



Ant Clerici